Citizens for Balanced Use

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Dear Senator Daines,

On June 23rd CBU held a Networking Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs to bring together groups and organizations representing recreation, resource industries, and agriculture. One of the important issues discussed was the release of the Wilderness Study Areas managed by the Forest Service in Montana. HJ 9, passed by both Houses of the Montana Legislature, was widely supported by the organizations attending our conference.

The 7 Wilderness Study Areas managed by the Forest Service in Montana were created 40 years ago with a timeline put in place in the Wilderness Study Act for review and action by congress. Over the past 40 years most of these areas have been studied for wilderness character and found to be not of sufficient wilderness character to be formally designated yet Congress has not acted to release these areas back to multiple use management.

Because of changes in management direction by the Forest Service for Wilderness Study Areas in Montana, most historical uses of these areas has been removed. The organizations listed below showed support for the release of these 7 Wilderness Study Areas in Montana.

Citizens for Balanced Use

Big Game Forever

Safari Club International

Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association

Montana Snowmobile Association

Montana Outfitters and Guides Association

Montana Petroleum Association

Montana Mining Association

Montana Stockgrowers Association

Treasure State Resource Association

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kerry White

CBU